



NEWS

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FCC LOCALISM TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE OF HEARINGS AND LISTS FULL MEMBERSHIP OF TASK FORCE

RM-10803

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission’s Localism Task Force today announced a schedule of six public hearings it will hold to solicit input from consumers, industry, civic organizations and others regarding broadcast localism. Each hearing will be chaired by one or more Commissioners. An important focus of the hearings will be to gather information and to conduct outreach for the nationwide round of broadcast station license renewals that is just beginning.

The locations and dates for the public hearings are as follows:

Charlotte, North Carolina	October 2003
San Antonio, Texas	December 2003
Santa Cruz/Salinas, California	March 2004
Rapid City, South Dakota	April 2004
Portland, Maine	May 2004
Washington, D.C.	June 2004

The first hearing will be held on October 22, 2003, in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Meeting Chamber at 600 East Fourth Street in Charlotte, North Carolina. Further details on each hearing will be released in the near future.

The FCC Localism Task Force initiative was established by FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell on August 20, 2003. The Task Force will conduct studies to measure localism and the efficacy of the FCC’s localism-related rules; organize a series of public hearings on localism; advise the Commission on recommendations to Congress relating to the licensing of thousands of additional low power FM radio stations; make recommendations to the Commission in the Fall of 2004 on how the Commission can promote localism in television and radio; and advise the Commission on legislative recommendations to Congress that would strengthen localism.

When Chairman Powell announced the formation of the Task Force in August, he appointed as **Co-Chairs** Michele Ellison, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel and Robert Ratcliffe, Deputy Chief, Media Bureau. Today, the Task Force announced the following additional members of the Task Force. All members of the Task Force are FCC staff.

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Task Force Chief of Staff

Royce Sherlock Chief, Industry Analysis Division, Media Bureau

Task Force Special Counsel

Eric Bash Attorney Advisor, Policy Division, Media Bureau
Kimberly Reindl Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel
Elizabeth Valinoti Attorney Advisor, Industry Analysis Division, Media Bureau
Harry Wingo Special Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Task Force Members

Simon Wilkie Chief Economist, Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis
Linda Blair Deputy Chief, Enforcement Bureau
Richard Diamond Deputy Director, Office of Media Relations
Jonathan Levy Deputy Chief Economist, Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis
Renée Licht Deputy Director, Office of the Managing Director
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Mary Beth Murphy Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau
Judith Herman Assistant Chief, Industry Analysis Division, Media Bureau
Roger Holberg Assistant Chief, Industry Analysis Division, Media Bureau
Marilyn Sonn Assistant General Counsel, Administrative Law Division,
Office of General Counsel
Lori Holy Attorney Advisor, Office of Legislative Affairs
Janice Wise Program & Information Specialist, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

While the Localism Task Force is an internal FCC organization, it will seek participation by members of the public, broadcasters, civic organizations, academics, local governments and any other interested individuals or institutions as it conducts its review of broadcast localism. To facilitate public input, the Task Force has established a filing number (RM-10803) for submission of comments or other information via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. Instructions for submitting comments are attached and are also available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs. For additional information concerning the Task Force visit the Task Force's web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/localism>, or contact the Task Force directly at (202) 418-7777, or at localism@fcc.gov.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact Brian Millin, of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at (202) 418-7426 (voice) or (202) 418-7365 (TTY), or at bmillin@fcc.gov. This News Release can also be downloaded in Text and ASCII formats at: <http://www.fcc.gov/mb> or <http://www.fcc.gov/localism>.

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